

An Essay  
On

The Homoeopathic  
Law of Cure.

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# The Homoeopathic Law of Cure

Life, — its origin, its changes and its end, — has been since the creation of man, a theme on which philosophers have loved to dwell; — whether wandering over the star-lit plains of Chaldea, or gazing on the Egyptian pyramids yet newly built, or walking amid the shady groves of Academus; — all alike have found in life the topic of their most profound discourses.

The knowledge of the world, like that of an individual, is a work of slow and gradual accumulation



By observation we have acquired ideas of matter and ideas of spirit, and consider them as principles which are inconsistent with something else, as heat and cold, light and darkness, sickness and health. But between the laws which govern matter and the laws which govern spirit, human intellect has never yet discovered a perfect analogy. That there is an analogy and that these two systems of laws are absolutely harmonious, is a fact proved by the existence of every human being. In what this analogy consists, is not yet revealed to man; we know its existence only by its effects,



and we call it by the vague  
and indefinite term of vitality.

The human body is of itself a  
single organization, subject to  
one common law of continuity,  
dissolution and decay;— each  
part being identified with all  
the other parts. But this material  
body is only the representative of  
the vital power within; which  
in health maintains and controls  
all its parts in harmony.

Without this power the organism  
is incapable either of action, sen-  
- sation or preservation.

Both in the outer and the  
inner world, agents antagon-  
- istic to health are found.



The dewy evening or the  
sultry morning may bear on  
its wings invisible poison.

Food and drink may convey  
unsuspected drugs. The rays  
of the sun may exhaust the  
strength or inflame the brain.

Or are the enemies of health  
within. Less active or less efficient.

The finely organized body  
is continually undergoing change.  
and in all its parts a law is  
at work which would impel  
it to dissolution.

But the operations of nature  
are all governed by fixed laws,  
which we may observe and  
study. Whenever the dynamic



the science of medicine  
must be to a great extent  
discovered and established  
by actual experiment; but,  
as in all sciences, so in this,  
experiment and logical infer-  
ence must be intimately  
associated. Any system  
of medical practice which  
cannot bear the test of rea-  
son deserves not the name  
of science. It was the  
erratic modes of cure adopted  
by medical practitioners of the  
eighteenth century that led  
Hahnemann, the illustri-  
ous founder of Homoeopathy  
to institute a series of



experiments in order to ascertain the specific action of drugs, and thus to commence the construction of an entirely new Materia Medica. At the commencement of these investigations he discovered that the symptoms of disease were counteracted successfully by the remedies which manifest similar symptoms on the healthy person. But this, though the first law brought to light, was not destined to be afterward considered the most remarkable. The fact that



a small quantity is even more powerful than a large quantity, at first taxed the credulity and afterwards excited the astonishment of the medical worlds.

The principle of specifica-  
tion is also inseparably connected with the Homoeopathic law of cure.

These three principles form the foundation of a complete science; — the only rational and scientific theory of cure,

causes. Let us consider the practical application of these three principles separately.



I. Specification: individualization of the total group of symptoms and individualization of a medicine which is capable of producing corresponding symptoms. order to

Specification consists, first in observing every symptom, separately and combined with all the rest. This principle is founded upon the simple truth that like results are produced by like causes. Results are manifest, - causes are occult.

By obtaining the totality of symptoms in a disease, we are by an infallible rule -



educated by observation of the facts  
of nature, — led to the adoption  
of the precise remedy needed.

As the artist who would paint  
correctly must mark each  
individual feature in order to  
complete the image; so must  
the physician treat, — not the dis-  
=ease as such; but the symptoms  
which singly and combined form  
the true image of the disease.

To call a disease by a name  
avails nothing positive; it  
only assists in generalizing:

but in the treatment of real  
symptoms we want, not general  
=ization but specification.

To treat symptoms is to reach



specific objects and thus to obliterate all that is desirable to be removed; Secondly; after discovering the individual features, the totality of which constitutes the image in the one case, then is to be applied the remedy, the specific features of which make up the image in the corresponding case; - symptom answering to symptom, - the complete likeness directing with unerring accuracy to the cure.

II. Similia Similibus curantur - "The medicine produces an artificial disease similar to the natural one, and as no two



similar diseases can occupy the system at the same time. the stronger or artificial predominates and a cure is effected.

An artificial disease is more powerful than a natural one simply because the parts of the system are in a diseased state and are consequently exceedingly sensitive to the subtle touch of the remedy. The eye in a healthy condition can endure a flood of light without the slightest shrinking. — in an inflamed condition even the twilight is intolerable.

In the treatment of symptoms those similia must be observed



which are specific, - not general. - characteristic not vague and unimportant. The Key symp. = toms lead to the specific remedy. the remaining symptoms are such as may be found in an indefinite number of diseased conditions and may be developed in the use of morbidic agents generally.

III. Potentization of medicines by which they are made to have a more penetrating influence upon the vital force. turning the current to healthful action.

Remedies are the more powerful, not in proportion as they are increased in quantity, but as they are



made more penetrating in  
their particles. The object then  
of doses of medicine which have  
commonly been called small,  
is not dilution in itself, but  
potentization. It is evident  
that great effects are produced  
by - what to the uneducated mind  
would be regarded as diminu-  
-tive agencies; as in the case  
of contagious diseases; the  
atmosphere being filled with the  
invisible, yet most subtle  
and powerful malaria.

Or also in the whole system of  
vegetable germ life, the micro-  
-scopic multitudes of seeds that  
teem in the earth; the various



forms of vegetable growth contain within themselves the powers that clothe our globe in luxuriant growth and wealth of beauty.

In hydrostatic pressure an inch of diameter may be made to

counteract a surface indefinitely extended.

A spark of electricity flashes its results around the globe.

It is utterly impossible for the mind of man to conceive of the almost infinite minuteness of an atom.

Philosophers have long since despaired of reaching the ultimate particles of matter.

One grain of a medicinal



Substance even at the third  
potentization would cover two  
square miles of area. It has  
been proved beyond successful contra-  
=diction that by the use of higher  
potentization ranging from the 200<sup>th</sup>  
to 7000<sup>th</sup> according to circumstances  
the additional element of penetra-  
=tion and power over disease is  
very greatly increased. Matter is  
indestructable, and however far the  
subdivision be extended, every drop of  
the alcohol used as a vehicle must  
be pervaded with the infinitesimal  
atoms of the drug.

Thus it is evident that  
Homoeopathy is a science  
Consistent and harmonious in itself;



while its application, its  
results, and its success  
appeal to the judgment of  
an unprejudiced world.

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of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College

of  
Pennsylvania

On the first day of February  
one thousand Eight hundred and

fifty six

By

Amos B. Lippincott

of

New Jersey